

Upstate New York has a proud manufacturing tradition-from Nucor Steel in Auburn to Guardian Industries in Geneva to Remington Arms in Ilion-but those good paying jobs are all at risk. It's no secret that much of our domestic manufacturing base has moved overseas. We cannot be a nation that doesn't produce our own goods. And we cannot continue to allow our jobs to move overseas.



"Fair" Trade not "Free" Trade

While I believe Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) can be beneficial to both the U.S. and developing nations if they are drafted and negotiated sensibly, I have serious concerns over the impact previous agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have had on environmental and labor standards in developing countries and on our economy and workers here at home.

The best indicator of the impact that trade deals like NAFTA have on the economy is the number of applications made for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), a federal program

to help workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased imports or shifts in production out of the United States. Since 1974, employees of businesses in the 24th district applied for TAA benefits 245 times - more than one application every two months. No matter the outcome, this means businesses in our region laid off employees or shut down completely 245 times over the last 35 years due to trade.

In 2007, I voted against the U.S.-Peru trade agreement because it's clear to me from our experience that "free" doesn't guarantee fair. Before we embark upon new trade agreements, we must first look at the consequences of previous trade deals. We cannot continue to sacrifice our local jobs in the short-term at the expense of questionable new opportunities in the long term. [Read More](#)

China's Predatory Trade Practices

There's no way our domestic manufacturers can compete globally when our trading partners don't play by the same rules. The growth of the U.S trade deficit with China since that country entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 has had a devastating effect on U.S. workers and our economy-with 2.4 million jobs having been lost or displaced, 4,800 of which have come from New York's 24th Congressional District. These jobs have come from nearly every sector, with the high-tech industries especially being the hardest hit.

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I have recently called on the President to take action against China's systematic efforts to corner the emerging green technology sector. More than 80 Chinese laws, regulations and practices have been identified to stack the deck in favor of Chinese manufacturers of green technologies, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, and advanced batteries, which if uncorrected will cost even more U.S. jobs.

Additionally, China is without a doubt undercutting our nation's industrial base by devaluing its currency and dumping products into our market. China pegs its currency to the U.S. dollar at a fixed exchange rate. Economists estimate that this exchange rate undervalues the Yuan anywhere between 25% and 40%. Maintaining its currency at a devalued exchange rate effectively provides a subsidy to Chinese companies and unfairly disadvantages foreign competitors. U.S. exports to the country cannot compete with the low-priced Chinese equivalents, and domestic American producers are similarly disadvantaged in the face of subsidized Chinese imports.

I feel that countries like China that devalue their currency should be held accountable, and as a nation, we should have the ability to defend our domestic businesses. I have cosponsored and recently helped pass *the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (H.R. 2378)*, will require the Department of Commerce to assess whether a nation's currency rules grant a "benefit" in terms of the additional currency the country's exporters receive as a result of the undervaluation and to use widely-accepted IMF methods for determining the level of undervaluation. This legislation is also WTO-consistent because countervailing duties may only be imposed when Commerce finds, based on an assessment of all the facts, that the WTO criteria for an export subsidy have been met.



Make it in America

This year, I have helped pass several pieces of legislation that are part of a "Make it in America" initiative to rebuild our manufacturing base and lead the world economy. I supported the Buy American provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), and cosponsored the Buy American Improvement Act (H.R. 4351). This will ensure that goods bought by the government for use in federally funded infrastructure projects are manufactured in the United States from domestic raw materials. [Read More](#)

In addition, I cosponsored and voted for the National Manufacturing Strategy Act (H.R. 4692), which would require the President, in consultation with a Manufacturing Strategy Board, to analyze the nation's manufacturing sector and develop a strategy for enhancing its competitiveness. I also supported H.R. 5156, the Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act, and H.R. 1875, the End the Trade Deficit Act. These bills will create clean energy jobs and support American manufacturing.